

# Rainier School and Respite Center

## A New Vision for Rainier School

"The most basic function of state government is insuring care for the disabled...those who cannot care for themselves." - *Pam Roach*

### **Vision Statement**

Rainier School is the keystone of Washington state residential habilitation centers (RHCs). It is the purpose of our community to build support for the school, its residents, and the community. We need a structured, proactive, and mutually supportive approach to reach the following goals:

#### **1. Respite Care and Adult Daycare**

- a. With the downsizing of our state facilities and the increasing numbers of individuals diagnosed with autism, there is a tremendous and growing need for respite care.
  - i. Provide for emergency respite care
  - ii. Provide the opportunity for much needed vacations for caretakers.
- b. Parents and guardians save the taxpayers millions of dollars when they choose in-home care over institutionalization, but caregivers need time off. Rainier School should become a premiere respite center to give support to community services.

#### **2. Continued Education for students 21 or older**

- a. The Developmentally Disabled need constant stimulus to retain their learned abilities.
- b. One possibility would be to create a research/ learning facility at Rainier School and Respite Center in partnership with teaching programs at Green

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River Community College, the University of Washington and other universities.

### **3. Public Outreach**

- a. The more the public knows about the clients, employees, activities and administration of the school, the more endured the school becomes. Public awareness, then, is key to the school's sustainability. Heightened awareness can come from:
  - i. Partnerships with community organizations.
  - ii. We need to partner with larger organizations and that share our vision for Rainier School.
  - iii. Relaying the stories of the families. For instance, a video presentation or greater media attention to show to decision makers.
  - iv. Open dental facilities to qualified DSHS welfare recipients.

### **4. Utilization of Services**

Current facilities, though aging, make literally thousands of unused square footage. Underground potential is over 100,000 square feet of area suitable for industrial production. The state already owns the grounds and structures which is a huge capital investment that needs to be used productively.

- a. Provide sheltered workshops, job coaching and bridging to the community. Allowing staff support for transition to work opportunities in the community.
- b. Provide behavioral and psychological support as well as medical care, dental care, and therapeutic support to the community.
- c. Re-open the facilities that have been closed.
  - i. A good example is the therapy pool that was paid for by the families.
  - ii. The bowling alley should be re-opened and could be opened up to the community.
- d. Create a park that is accessible for the developmentally disabled.

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- i. Explore a partnership with Puget Sound Energy to create a park that is accessible for developmentally and physically disabled.
  - ii. A camping and picnic area with narrow asphalt trails and facilities that allow for overnight stays, such as yurts or other options would be an enormous resource for our community.
- e. A thorough review of the Northern Virginia Training Center will give guidelines to over-coming financial challenges and creating community partnerships.

- i. Summary of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC): The NVTC Center is part of the service delivery continuum for persons with intellectual disabilities who reside in the Northern Virginia area.

NVTC provides inpatient care, outpatient treatment, community staff training, and specialized educational opportunities for students in cooperation with area universities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities who reside in the community often lack medical, dental, and behavioral health services.

NVTC's outpatient program, called the Regional Community Support Clinic (RCSC), provides specialized medical, behavioral, dental and respite services to individuals living in the community who have complex medical and behavioral needs. NVTC employs professionals specifically trained in the sub-specialties necessary to serve this population and is uniquely qualified to be a resource to the community regardless of a consumer's residential status.

The services provided by NVTC to consumers of the five Northern Virginia Community Service Boards (CSBs) are services that either cannot be readily accessed in the community that require professionals with specialized training and education, or can be provided at less cost by the Training Center.

NVTC staff also share expertise in new service approaches with community professionals and provide training to staff from community residential and vocational providers. In addition, NVTC has contractual relationships with 30 regional universities and colleges to provide student internships, practicum and specialized educational experiences in the treatment of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

## **5. Revitalization of Facilities**

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- a. Funding is needed to update and maintain the buildings and grounds at Rainier School which is a less expensive alternative than rebuilding.
- b. A community forum with Senate Ways and Means staff should be scheduled to determine ways to fund the potential improvements and utilizations of Rainier School.

### **6. Autism Research**

- a. Explore the possibility of re-opening the study and internships with the University of WA and Green River Community College.